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U.S. Student Expelled By Russia as CIA Man

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MOSCOW (AP) — Soviet authorities said today they have expelled an American student for spreading anti-Soviet propaganda.

The Soviet labor paper Trud said Nicholas H. Riegg of the University of Pennsylvania was ousted this month after authorities accused him of working for the American Central Intelligence Agency and engaging in "hostile activities."

Trud said that Donald R. Lesh, a U.S. Embassy secretary who was expelled Sept. 14, had served as a contact man for Riegg. It charged that Lesh also worked for the CIA and subverted African students in Moscow.

The report said Riegg had signed a statement admitting the charges against him.

Leniency Stressed

"We should like to draw the attention of the foreign public, and particularly the American public, to the generosity of the Soviet people," Trud said. "In our country we use extreme measures of punishment only in rare cases, particularly when foreigners are involved."

An American Peace Corps member, Thomas R. Dawson, is being held by Soviet authorities for possible trial as a border violator.

The last American taken to court on such a charge, Newcomb Mott, got an 18-month sentence. He committed suicide last Jan. 20, according to the official Soviet version.

The U.S. State Department was angered by the treatment given Mott and warned American tourists about the dangers of coming to this country.

The U.S. Embassy had no

immediate comment on the Lesh and Riegg cases.

Trud said Riegg had tried twice to come to the Soviet Union as a student, once to Leningrad and once to Minsk. Failing this, he visited the country as a tourist in 1964 and 1965, the paper continued.

It said he had been trained for his work by CIA agents in Stockholm, Sweden, and had brought in anti-Soviet literature. But it said the Soviet people would not listen to his slanders against the country.

Trud said Riegg signed a statement before his expulsion which said: "In addition to the dark affairs I have busied myself in during this trip, I also behaved myself criminally two years ago the first time I was here."

"I understand that my fate depends entirely upon the generosity of the Soviet people."

Activities Described

Trud asserted that Lesh had prepared for his work in the Soviet Union by studying intelligence in the U.S. Navy and then joined the State Department to get the protection of diplomatic immunity.

It accused him of going into northern Norway to make observations along the Soviet border and then trying to explore that area from the Soviet side.

Trud said that in Moscow, Lesh devoted much time to "subversive work among African students," coordinated the intelligence trips of U.S. diplomats in this country, and carried out secret operations for the CIA.

Trud said that Lesh had not been the top-ranking CIA man in the embassy and referred to a "person who actively leads the dirty spying in our country," but it did not name anyone.